

REMARKS

The Examiner noted that claims 2 and 3 recite a broad range of components followed by a series of narrow ranges introduced with the term "preferably". As suggested by the Examiner, claims 2 and 3 have each been amended to recite only one range of components and the term "preferably" has been deleted. New claims 7 and 8 recite the ranges of claims 2 and 3, respectively, which were deleted.

Claims 4 and 6 were objected to because of being in improper form and were not treated on the merits. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended herein to remove the multiple dependency and examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 and dependent claims 2-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite because of the phrase "in substantial absence of oxygen bleaches". The term "substantial" has been deleted. The attention of the Examiner is drawn to the specification: page 1, lines 22-27 stipulating the unconditional absence of bleach; page 3, lines 14-17 annotating that, in the context of the claimed technology, oxygen bleach is counter-productive and cannot be used; page 11, lines 5/6 defining the absence of oxygen in executions of the invention and the conclusion appearing on page 13, lines 6-11 emphasizing the absence of bleaching systems.

In addition to the foregoing, and very importantly, please consider that the presence of any bleaching system is not an inventive parameter needed for carrying out the invention. The term "absence of bleaching system" belongs to the preamble of the claim. It can define a problem, but certainly not the invention, i.e. the solution to the problem. Equally relevant in this context is the observation that there is no incompatibility *per se* between oxygen bleach and the claimed

technology. It can, as clearly pointed out in the description, be in order for not using oxygen bleaches in certain applications.

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over *May et al* US Patent No. 4,652,403 in view of *Kuzee et al* WO 99/64551. *May et al* teaches detergent compositions containing major levels of water-insoluble aluminosilicate builders in combination with a mixture of alkylene polyamino polymethylene phosphonate. The *May et al* compositions contain, in addition, conventional detergent matrix components including surfactants and (preferably) peroxy bleaching compound in major levels, frequently in the range of from 15 to 40%. The term "Preferably", in relation to oxygen bleach, stands for "usually" considering that all the examples are based on oxygen bleach compositions (sodium perborate). Also, considering the nature of the zeolite builders, it is difficult to formulate effective compositions without a bleach. The description is confirmatory in that respect and nowhere is there any, even indirect hint towards using bleach free systems. Further, *May et al* is not suggestive in any manner, of using fructans, let alone hinting to desirable performance benefits derivable from using such fructans in combination with phosphonates in bleach free compositions to thus procure desirable benefits.

Kuzee et al WO 99/64551 cannot make up for the deficiencies of *May et al* for the purpose of being suggestive of Applicant's claimed subject matter.

Kuzee et al discloses a method for removing contaminants from textiles. The *Kuzee et al* technology actually constitutes, see page 1, lines 4-22, industrial textile treatment technology which is different from and non comparable to detergent technology as contemplated in the meaning of the claimed technology. The technological differences between the domains of laundry detergents and

industrial textile treatment are well known and the technological principles are not transferable from one domain to the other. The "textile treatment" nature of *Kuzee et al* is exemplified on: page 1, lines 15-29; page 7, line 16 to page 9, first paragraph; page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 13; and pag 14. Quite in general, *Kuzee et al* solely relates to industrial textile treatment (as opposed to laundry detergents) thereby advocating treatment conditions including e.g. concentrations, alkalinity, bleach , and temperatures, which are non applicable (exclusive) in connection with the conventional application of the claimed laundry detergents.

Thus, neither of the cited references, individually, discloses the present invention, and even if combined in any manner, would use bleach, do not suggest using fructans and are not directed to detergent technology.

Accordingly, allowance of amended claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

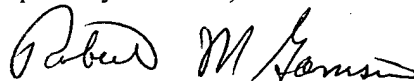
It appears that all matters have been addressed satisfactorily, and that the case is now in condition for a complete allowance; and the same is respectfully urged.

However, if the Examiner has any comments or questions, or has any suggestions as per MPEP 707.07 (d) and (j), for putting the case in condition for final allowance, he is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned attorney-of-record at the telephone number below, so that an expeditious resolution may be effected and the case passed to issue promptly.

Date

Jan 25, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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